

August 1, 2012

**To:** NITC Commissioners  
**From:** Anne Byers  
**Subject:** eHealth Council Update

**State HIE Cooperative Agreement—Progress.** NeHII continues to expand, adding 70 physicians in the second quarter and 150 physicians in the first quarter. 2,189 individual users at 167 organizations (including 17 hospitals and 2 non hospital-based laboratories) are currently participating in query model exchange through NeHII. NeHII has begun implementation activities with Columbus Community Hospital and Sidney Regional Health System.

In 2011, Governor Heineman signed LB 237 which authorized the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with NeHII to establish a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). NeHII's functionality allows physicians to view a patient's medication history and other clinical information through NeHII's Virtual Health Record, enabling physicians to more safely prescribe controlled substances. Physicians have found NeHII's prescription drug monitoring functionality to be very useful. NeHII has been meeting weekly with the MITRE organization, ePowerDoc, Axolotl, Mary Lanning Healthcare and the State of Nebraska to finalize the project plan and agreements that are necessary to move forward with single sign-on functionality that will enhance the PDMP functionality. In order to encourage use of the PDMP, NeHII is partnering with Alegent to offer a continuing education program on utilizing NeHII's PDMP functionality in the fall.

Physician testimonials can be found below:

### **Physician Testimonials—NeHII Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**

"When the patient arrived in the ER, I looked them up in our system (a 3 hospital system). The patient had 3 ER visits in 12 months. I then looked the patient up in NeHII and found the patient had 33 ER visits in 12 months. The treatment plan is much different for 3 ER visits versus 33 ER visits."

*-Nurse Practitioner at large metro Omaha hospital ER*

"A patient was admitted to this ER and placed in room 3. Following the intake process and patient interview, I left the patient room and looked up the patient in NeHII. Much to my surprise, the patient in room 3 had been just discharged from another metro area ER only 30 minutes prior. When I re-entered the patient room and advised the patient I had information indicating s/he had been discharged from another ER earlier today, their comment was, 'oh yeah, that's right.'"

*-Physician Assistant at major trauma center in Omaha*

"Now that providers are able to access NeHII for the statewide PDMP, they have access to not only the PDMP medication fill history but patient lab, radiology, transcribed reports, allergies,

immunizations and much more. Being able to access medication history has been valuable in assisting me in managing the care of patients under my care providing continuity to care regardless of where the patient is served. It will be even more valuable when even more medical facilities participate in sharing data.”

*-Medical Provider in medium sized Nebraska city.*

“NeHII is a great tool for me to use, as an emergency department physician, to see what has been going on with the patient and their previous care prior to coming the emergency department. However, when a patient opts out of NeHII, I feel their choice to opt out adversely affects their care. NeHII is fluid, easy to use and straight forward.”

*-Medical provider from multi-hospital system in Omaha*

NeHII’s Consumer Advisory Council has been working to develop a Consumer Awareness campaign offering a variety of media channels to educate consumers about NeHII. The entire campaign was announced and released at the NeHII Annual Meeting July 24. The campaign includes standardized logos and graphics, revised consumer education brochure, newspaper print ad, radio ad, CD Cover, Counter Card, Window Cling, PSA, YouTube video, consumer microsite and new skin to the current NeHII website. The consumer site is available at <http://connectnebraska.net/>.

eBHIN began rolling out HIE functionality to participating behavioral health providers in southeast Nebraska in the summer of 2012. This functionality includes referral based waitlist management capabilities. Providers are finding this capability very useful. Other behavioral health entities may have a significant interest in this functionality as well as referral management practices between behavioral health and primary care settings.

**State HIE Cooperative Agreement—Expenditures.** As of July 18, 2012, we have expended 85% of our State HIE Cooperative Agreement funds. A summary of the expenditures is below.

|            | Expended       | Allocated      | %<br>Expended |
|------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| NeHII      | \$4,806,074.71 | \$4,898,275.00 | 98%           |
| State/NITC | \$98,418.88    | \$157,075.00   | 63%           |
| Eval/UNMC  | \$45,458.39    | \$269,435.00   | 17%           |
| eBHIN      | \$794,665.08   | \$1,112,275.00 | 71%           |
| Pub Health | \$59,500.22    | \$326,500.00   | 18%           |
| Telehealth | \$39,346.38    | \$73,620.00    | 53%           |
| Total      | \$5,843,463.66 | \$6,837,180.00 | 85%           |

**State HIE Cooperative Agreement—Desk Audit.** On Dec. 14, 2011, we received a letter from ONC asking for information for a desk audit of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. Information was

submitted as requested by January 9, 2012. We received no response until July 10, when we received a letter asking for additional information by July 30. We received an extension until August 17, 2012.

**NeHII Annual Meeting/State HIE Cooperative Agreement Site Visit.** NeHII's annual meeting was held in Scottsbluff on July 24. Our ONC Project Officer, Brett Andriesen, and a consultant who is providing technical assistance to the State HIE program, Brendan Boerbaitz, participated in the meeting. A site visit was scheduled in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

NeHII is now approaching sustainability. NeHII is moving away from utilizing Bass and Associates to provide staffing as contractual services. Deb Bass has been hired as a full-time employee. NeHII is renegotiating its agreement with Optum/Axolotl and received some discounts.

Dr. Todd Sorensen gave us a two-hour tour of Regional West Medical Center. We also visited with Laura Richards from the Panhandle Mental Health Center. They are excited about eBHIN's capabilities. Right now their ability to generate reports is extremely limited. She has to manually enter in data in spreadsheets. She liked the reporting capabilities available through eBHIN. The HIE is not yet deployed in the Panhandle, but the providers who are using the HIE functionality in Southeast Nebraska are very excited about the referral and wait list capabilities.

**State eHealth Plan Updates.** An updated operational plan was submitted to ONC on May 8, 2012. The operational plan includes an evaluation plan, privacy and security plan, sustainability plan, and implementation plan. The updated strategic plan is undergoing final editing.

**Membership.** Sharon Medcalf has been nominated by the eHealth Council to fill a vacant seat.